SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #8 – Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:
1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.
2. The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.
3. The term 'Office of Profit' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct. Article 102 of the Constitution of India provides that a person shall be disqualified from his membership of parliament if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State. Parliament has enacted the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, which has exempted several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.
Statement 2 is correct. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 has been amended five times.
Statement 3 is incorrect. The expression 'office of profit' has not been well-defined in the Constitution or in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
Source: UPSC CSE 2019.

Q.2) Which of the following provisions in the Constitution of India can be amended only by the special majority of the Parliament?
1. Admission or establishment of new states
2. Use of official language
3. Fundamental Rights
4. Directive Principles of State Policy
Select the correct answer using the codes given below
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 3 and 4 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Article 368 of the Indian Constitution provides for two types of amendments that are by special majority of Parliament and also through the ratification of half of the states by a simple majority.
The federal provisions of the Constitution can only be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.
And by a simple majority of Parliament that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting (similar to the ordinary legislative process).
Option 1 and 2 is incorrect: A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:
1) **Admission or establishment of new states.**
2) **Use of official language.**

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Option 3 and 4 is correct: A number of provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting. The expression 'total membership' means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.

The provisions which can be amended by this way includes:

1) **Fundamental Rights**
2) **Directive Principles of State Policy**
3) **All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories.**

Knowledge Base:

Other provisions amended by the simple majority are following:

1) Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states
2) Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
3) Second Schedule–emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.
4) Quorum in Parliament.
5) Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.
6) Rules of procedure in Parliament.
7) Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.
8) Use of English language in Parliament.
9) Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.
10) Conferment of more jurisdictions on the Supreme Court.

Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf 6th edition. Chapter name-Amendment of the constitution. Page no-280 and 281.

Q.3) Consider the following statements with reference to provisions of funding of elections in India:

1. The anonymous donations made by individuals in cash to the political parties should not be more than 2 Lakh Rupees.
2. A corporate company is free to donate any amount of money to any political party.
3. The political parties cannot receive funds from the foreign companies.

Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Several reforms have been put in place for electoral funding in India including provisions for donations as well cash limits etc.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In the 2017 budget, **the limit for anonymous cash donations by any individual to a political party has been lowered from ₹20,000 to ₹2,000 (not 2 Lakh).** This means that now the political parties cannot receive more than ₹2,000 as cash donations. However, they are not required to inform the Election Commission of India of the details of persons who donate under ₹2,000. They must keep records of persons making above ₹2,000 donations.

Statement 2 is correct: In 2017 budget, the limit on corporate contributions from 7.5 per cent of the net profit of a company's past three financial years has been removed. This means that **now a company can**

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donate any amount of money to any political party. Further, the obligation of the company to report such donations in its profit and loss account has also been lifted.
Statement 3 is incorrect: In 2018 budget, **the receiving of foreign funds by the political parties has been allowed.** In other words, the political parties can now receive funds from the foreign companies. Accordingly, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, has been amended.
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter –73

Q.4) Consider the following statements with reference to the procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368:
1. The bill for constitutional amendment requires prior permission of the President for its introduction in the Parliament.
2. The bill affecting the federal provisions of the Constitution must be ratified by the state legislatures of half of the states by a special majority.
3. The President has no power to withhold his assent to a Constitutional amendment bill.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure. The Parliament in exercise of its constituent power can amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.
Statement 1 is incorrect: The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The bill affecting the federal provisions of the Constitution must be ratified by the state legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority (and not by special majority) that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting. **Special majority of the Parliament** is a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting.
Statement 3 is correct: The constitutional amendment bill passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent. **The President must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament**. After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.
Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf 6th edition. Chapter name-Amendment of the constitution. Page no-278 and 279.

Q.5) Which of the following statements best describes the term "Dark Genome"?
a) DNA outside of the regions conventionally defined as genes.
b) Defective genes that cause hereditary diseases.
c) A part of DNA that helps in cancer treatment.
d) Genome without specific characteristics.

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Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Scientists investigating the DNA outside our genes (the 'dark genome), have discovered recently evolved regions that code for proteins associated with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Option a is correct: Dark genome refers to 'DNA outside of the regions conventionally defined as genes. They are genes/proteins for which there is minimal knowledge on biological function and, allied to this, limited tools for their analysis (such as antibodies). Thus, it adversely affects the precision medicine initiative.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/plumbing-the-dark-genome-for-new-genes/article33828495.ece

Q.6) With reference to promotion of State civil service officers to All-India services, consider the following statements:

1. Constitution has specified the quota for the promotion of state civil services officers to All-India services.
2. Officers of state civil services are promoted to All India services based on the recommendation of the respective State Public Service Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Promotion rules for state service officers are governed through All- India Services Act of 1951. The C**onstitution has not specified** the quota. Senior posts not exceeding thirty-three percent reserved in IAS, IPS and IFS are required to be filled by state service officers that is specified under **All-India Services Act, 1951**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: All India Services Act of 1951 specifies the quota of state officers to be promoted for All-India services. Such promotions are based **on the recommendation of a selection committee** constituted in each state for this matter. Chairman or member of UPSC presides over such committee.

Source: Laxmikant, chapter on public services.

Q.7) Consider the following statements with reference to the Representation of the People Act, 1951:

1. The act provides for the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to various states.
2. Political speeches made for the conservation of the language of a section of the citizens amount to corrupt practice under the act.
3. Registration of political parties in India is governed by the provisions of this act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

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Representation of the People Act, 1951 provided for the provisions for actual conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these Houses, the corrupt practices and other election offences.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Representation of the People Act, 1950 (and not Representation of the People Act, 1951) provided for the allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States. Article 81 and Article 170 of the Indian Constitution provide broad guidelines regarding the composition of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. A detailed plan about the allocation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative assemblies was provided by the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Statement 2 is incorrect: According to the Supreme Court of India, the right to conserve the language includes the right to agitate for the protection of the language. Hence, the **political speeches or promises made for the conservation of the language of a section of the citizens does not amount to corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

Statement 3 is correct: Registration of political parties in India is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. An association seeking registration under the said Section has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation, as per the guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1598213

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth. Chapter name- Election laws. Page no- 1191 to 1193.

Q.8) With reference to Acquisition of property by the Government in India, consider the following statements:

1. A person is not entitled to the compensation, when Government acquires land under his personal cultivation and even if it is under the ceiling limit.
2. Government is liable to provide compensation on acquiring the property of a minority educational institution.
3. Both parliament and state legislature have authority to enact legislation for the compulsory acquisition of private property.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: After the 44th amendment the Government mandatorily compensates for acquiring the land held by a person within ceiling limit and under his personal cultivation.

Statement 2 is correct: After acquiring the property of **minority educational institution**, **government is liable to provide compensation** to such institution. Also, such compensation amount shall not restrict or abrogate the rights provided to them. This was also added by 44th amendment act.

Statement 3 is correct: Under A**rticle 300A** both P**arliament and state legislature** can make laws for the **compulsory acquisition** and requisition of private property by the government. The acquired property should be used **only for public purpose** as may be specified under the law. The person whose property has been acquired have to be compensated for such acquisition along with a proper rehabilitation and resettlement.

Source: statement 1,2 and3: Laxmikanth 5th edition chapter on rights and liabilities., page no: 64.1

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Q.9) Consider the following statements with reference to the right to vote in India:
1. A prisoner who is serving a sentence of imprisonment is not entitled to vote in an election.
2. Voting rights are available to Non-Resident Indians but not to Overseas Citizenship of India card holders.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: According to Election Commission of India, prisoners do not have voting rights under the Representation of People (RP) Act 1951. The Supreme Court 1997 judgment held that the effect that **any person who is confined in prison while serving a sentence of imprisonment on his conviction for any offence** or is under lawful confinement in a prison or in a police custody for any reason **is not entitled to vote in an election.**
Statement 2 is correct: Till the year 2010, NRIs were not allowed to vote in the elections. However, **post 2010 an amendment permitted NRIs to vote at their particular constituency** in India but the voting required the direct presence of the NRI in India at the particular polling booth where the name was registered. **OCI cardholders do not get voting rights**, cannot hold a government job and purchase agricultural or farmland. They cannot travel to restricted areas without government permission.
Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth. Chapter name –Electoral reforms. Page no-1213.
https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/prisoners-do-not-have-voting-rights-ec-tells-hc/article28828646.ece
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/who-can-vote-in-india/articleshow/68793337.cms

Q.10) Which of the following countries share their border with Kazakhstan?
1. Russia
2. Afghanistan
3. China
4. Kyrgyzstan
5. Tajikistan
6. Turkmenistan
Select the correct answer from the code given below
a) 1, 2, 4 and 6 only
b) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
c) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
d) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
China, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan share their borders with Kazakhstan.
Recently**, violent unrest** has been taken in **Kazakhstan after the increase in fuel prices.** The reasons for the crisis in Kazakhstan include: Rise in LPG prices; Inflation; Unrest against the authoritarian government.

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Source: Instability in Kazakhstan will resonate in regional geopolitics-ForumIAS Blog

Q.11) In the context of India, which one of the following is the characteristic appropriate for bureaucracy?
a) An agency for widening the scope of parliamentary democracy
b) An agency for strengthening the structure of federalism
c) An agency for facilitating political stability and economic growth
d) An Agency for the implementation of public policy

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Bureaucracy refers to an administrative policy-implementation group, which is a body of non-elected government officials.

The major objective of bureaucracy in India has not been Parliamentary democracy's expansion but rather the implementation of the decisions taken by the executive. With All India Services at the helm of major bureaucratic structure, it cannot be said that strengthening of federal structure is its main characteristic.

India's bureaucratic system's most important function since independence has been implementation of public policy, making the decisions of the government reach a conclusion on the ground level. Parliamentary democracy results often in change at the helm of executive, the static and permanent bureaucracy provides continuity of policies and execution rather than political stability.

Source: UPSC CSE 2020

Q.12) Consider the following statements with reference to the disqualifications under the Anti-Defection Law:

1. If an elected member of House voluntarily gives up his party membership, he/she can be disqualified under Anti-defection law.
2. A nominated member of a House can be disqualified if he/she joins any political party within six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.
3. An independent member of a House cannot be disqualified if he/she joins a political party.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
The 52nd Amendment Act of 1985 provided for the disqualification of the members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection from one political party to another. it made changes in four Articles of the Constitution and added a new Tenth Schedule to the Constitution. This act is referred to as the 'anti-defection law'
Statement 1 is correct: Under the anti-defection law, members of a political party can be disqualified and removed from the membership of the House **if he voluntarily gives up the membership from the party** after being elected or defy the direction or whip of the party leadership in the House.
Statement 2 is incorrect: A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House **if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months** from the date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that **he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House** without inviting this disqualification.
Statement 3 is incorrect: An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) **becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.**
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/podcast/politics/what-is-an-anti-defection-law-122062700045_1.html
https://prsindia.org/theprsblog/the-anti-defection-law-explained
Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf. Chapter name- anti defection law. Page no- 1241 and 1242.

Q.13) With reference to India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA), consider the following statements:
1. It is a framework that integrates all the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises in the country on a single digital platform.
2. It links the Performance Measurement Systems of the enterprises to the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. It has been developed by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) was launched in 2018 by Government of India as a way to establish Unity in Diversity in the domain of e-Governance.
Statement 1 is incorrect. India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) is a framework that make all **Government services digitally accessible** in an integrated manner to citizens through multiple channels like web, mobile and common service delivery outlets. It enables the planned development and implementation of understandable, Robust, Complete, Consistent and Stable architectures independently and in parallel by all governments and their agencies across India.

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Statement 2 is the correct answer. One of the major principles of India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) is linking all enterprise architectures with **sustainable development goals**. The Performance Measurement Systems of enterprises are derived from and are linked to Sustainable Development Goals that are prioritized by the Government.

Statement 3 is incorrect. IndEA is developed by a working group constituted by Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) (not Ministry of Commerce and Industry).** The India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) has been notified as a **e-Governance standard** by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in October 2018.

Knowledge Base:

India Digital Ecosystem Architecture 2.0 or InDEA 2.0 is a framework that promotes the evolution of digital ecosystems. It consists of a set of 27 principles in 5 categories, namely, ecosystem, architecture, business, technology, and architecture governance. It also consists of architectural patterns that inform, guide, and enable the development of large digital systems, with a focus on the public sector

Source: https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/IndEA_Framework_1.0.pdf

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. The size of council of ministers cannot exceed to 15% of total Lok Sabha members.
2. A Member of Parliament if disqualified under 10th schedule shall also be disqualified from any remunerative political posts.
3. The President can remove a minister even while Council of Ministers enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

91st Amendment Act, 2003 introduced with the provisions to limit the size of council of ministers, to debar defectors and strengthen the anti-defection law.introduced with the provisions to limit the size of council of ministers, to debar defectors and strengthen the anti-defection law.

Statement 1 is correct: 91st Amendment Act 2003, added **clause 1A to article 75**. This provision restricted the size of the council of ministers to 15% of total strength of Lok Sabha members including the prime minister. Prior to this, prime minister had discretion of appointing anyone to the council of minister, hence making large sized cabinets and putting pressure on public exchequer.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 361-B A member of a house belonging to any political party when disqualified under law of defection **disqualifies for the remunerative political post.** It includes office under centre or state government where salary is paid out of public exchequer or office of a body wholly or partially owned by such governments.

Statement 3 is correct: Article 75 of the Indian Constitution contains the principle of individual responsibility. It states that the ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President, which means that the **President can remove a minister even at a time when the COM enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha.** However, the President removes a minister only on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Source: Laxmikant, Appendix VI, Constitutional Amendments at a Glance

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Q.15) Which of the following is the main aim of the 'Padhe Bharat Campaign' launched by the Government of India?
a) To bring "out of school" children below 14 years into the ambit of formal education.
b) To promote joyful reading culture among the children by ensuring the availability of appropriate reading books.
c) To ensure 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio of the tribal children at the elementary level of education.
d) To ensure availability of quality education to all through the creation of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Padhe Bharat is a 100 Days Reading Campaign which is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. **It emphasizes on the promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring the availability of age-appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal Language.** It will focus on children studying in Bal Vatika to Grade 8. It aims to have the participation of all stakeholders at the national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community, educational administrators etc.
Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1786786

Q.16) Consider the following statements with reference to the Citizen Charters in India:
1. They contain standards for transparent and time-bound public service delivery.
2. 'Sevottam' is a model for Citizen Charters proposed by First Administrative Reforms Commission in India.
3. Theys are enforceable in the court of law.
Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Citizen's Charter is a document of commitments made by a government organization to the citizens/client groups in respect of the services/schemes being provided to them or to be provided to them.
Statement 1 is correct: The **basic objective of the Citizens Charter is to empower the citizens in relation to public service delivery**. The Charter should lay out **explicit standards of service delivery so that users understand what they can reasonably expect from service providers**. **These standards should be transparent, time- bound, relevant, accurate, measurable and specific.**
Statement 2 is incorrect: Sevottam Model is a model for Citizen Charters proposed by 2nd ARC (Administrative Reforms Commission) **(and not the First ARC)** for public Service Delivery. The word, Sevottam, is a combination of two Hindi words: 'Seva' (service) and 'Uttam' (excellence). Sevottam Model is now regarded as a standard model for providing services in citizen centric governance. The model is developed by rectifying the drawbacks in the earlier mechanisms of public service delivery like Citizen Charters (CC), and is gradually adopted by various departments under Central and State government.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The **Citizen's Charter is not legally enforceable and, therefore, is non-justiciable.** However, it is a tool for facilitating the delivery of services to citizens with specified standards,

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quality and time frame etc. There can be provisions for grievance redressal but legal recourse to the courts is available.
Source: https://darpg.gov.in/citizens-charters-handbook

Q.17) With reference to powers of Centre and States regarding the All-India Services, consider the following statements:
1. State governments are not consulted by the Centre while making the rules regarding recruitment of All India Services.
2. State government cannot take disciplinary action against an officer of Indian Administrative Services.
3. For creating a new All India Services, a resolution must be passed by the Rajya Sabha with a simple majority
Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
All India Services are those which are **common** to both by Central and State governments. At present there are three all-India services, i.e., Indian Administrative Services, Indian Police Services, and Indian Forest Services.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Central government **consults** the state governments on making rules for **recruitment and service conditions** of the members of all- India services. Central government is so authorised under **All India Services Act of 1951.**
Statement 2 is incorrect: State governments can take disciplinary action against IAS officers for misconducts while working in the affairs of the State Government. The all-India services are jointly controlled by central and state governments. The Government in connection with whose affairs the officer is serving is competent suspend or institute departmental proceedings against an IAS officer.
Statement 3 is incorrect: According to **article 312**, **Parliament** can create a **new All- India Services when Rajya Sabha passes the resolution** for the same in the national interest or deems it necessary to do so. This resolution needs to pass with support of **two-third** members present and voting **(not simple majority)**. Rajya Sabha is given this power to protect the interest of states in Indian federal system.
Source: Laxmikanth, chapter on public services
https://dopt.gov.in/sites/default/files/I-27011_5_2011-Ad.III-31082012.pdf
https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175303

Q.18) Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951?
1. Ninth Schedule was added through this act to protect the land reforms from the judicial review.
2. It empowered the State Governments to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward classes.
3. It authorized the Government to nationalize any trade.
4. It provided for the establishment of a common High Court for two or more states.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 4 only

d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: The First constitutional Amendment Act of 1951 added the following provisions to the constitution of India:

1) **Empowered the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward classes.**
2) It provided for the saving of laws providing for acquisition of estates, etc.
3) **Added Ninth Schedule to protect the land reforms and other laws included in it, from the judicial review.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Fourth constitutional Amendment Act, 1955 (and not first amendment act, 1951) Authorized the Government to nationalize any trade.

Other provisions added by the Fourth constitutional Amendment Act, 1955 are following:

1) It made the scale of compensation given in lieu of compulsory acquisition of private property beyond the scrutiny of courts.
2) It included some more Acts in the Ninth Schedule.
3) Extended the scope of Article 31 A (savings of laws)

Statement 4 is incorrect: Seventh Amendment Act, 1956 (and not first amendment act, 1951) provided for the establishment of a common High Court for two or more states.

Other provisions added by the Fourth constitutional Amendment Act, 1955 are following:

1) It abolished the existing classification of states into four categories i.e., Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D states, and reorganized them into 14 states and 6 union territories.
2) Extended the jurisdiction of high courts to union territories.
3) Provided for the appointment of additional and acting judges of the high court.

Source: https://legislative.gov.in/constitution-first-amendment-act-1951

Q.19) Consider the following statements with reference to the features of Right to Information Act in India:

1. The Act prohibits the disclosure of information which comes under Official Secrets Act, 1923.
2. The Act has no provision for self-disclosure of information by the Public Authorities.
3. If information sought under the RTI concerns the life and liberty of a person, it shall be provided within 48 hours.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Right to Information Act 2005 mandates timely response to citizen's requests for government information**. The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in a real sense.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Section 8 (2) of the RTI Act provides for disclosure of information exempted under Official Secrets Act, 1923 if larger public interest is served. The term **"public interest" is not defined in the RTI Act**. Because of this, public authorities - more specifically, Public Information Officers,

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Appellate Authorities and Information Commissioners - will need to judge each case on its merit and in light of any emerging guidance or best practice.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Suo Moto disclosure under Section 4 of Right to Information Act, 2005 orders the public authorities to publish the information** to the public on regular intervals voluntarily and not on the demand of the public. **Hence the Statement is incorrect.**

Statement 3 is correct: In normal course, **information to an applicant shall be supplied within 30 days from the receipt of application by the public authority**. If **information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours.** In case the application is sent through the Assistant Public Information Officer or it is sent to a wrong public authority, five days shall be added to the period of thirty days or 48 hours, as the case may be.

Source: https://rtionline.gov.in

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding 'India State of Forest Report 2021':

1. The dense forest cover in India has increased in the last two decades.
2. The forest cover in India is expanding on private land while it is decreasing in forests managed by the government in the last 10 years.
3. Every state in the North East has experienced fall in the levels of forest cover during 2019-21.
4. According to the report more than half of the total forest area in the country is prone to forest fires.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021** has been released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Statement 1 is incorrect: In the last 20 years, **India's forest cover has increased by 38,251sq km**. But, during this period, **dense forests have reduced by 10,140 sq km**, and open forests have increased by 48,391 sq km. So, while the total forest cover has grown, they have increased mainly in the degraded forest category; good quality forests have reduced.

Statement 2 is correct: According to India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, in the last 10 years, forest cover inside Recorded Forest Area has reduced by 14,071 sq. km, while it has increased by 35,779 sq. km outside. So, **forest cover is expanding on private land** (mainly as plantation) and **decreasing in forests managed by the government.**

Statement 3 is correct: According this report, **during 2019-21, every northeastern state reports loss in forest cover**. Manipur recorded the largest loss in forest cover. States in the **North East have recorded the highest loss in forest cover**. This is due to numerous natural calamities, particularly landslides and heavy rains, and anthropogenic activities such as shifting agriculture, pressure of developmental activities and felling of trees.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The survey has found that **35.46 %** (not more than half) of the forest cover is **prone to forest fires**. Out of this, 2.81% is extremely prone, 7.85% is very highly prone and 11.51% is highly prone. India reported 345,989 forest fires from November 2020 to June 2021, according to the State of Forests Report, 2021.

Source: India State of Forest Report 2021 - Explained, pointwise -ForumIAS Blog
Forest Survey Report 2021: Forest fire counts up 2.7 times (downtoearth.org.in)

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https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/forests/every-northeastern-state-reports-loss-in-forest-cover-state-of-india-s-forest-report-2021-81113

Q.21) For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by:
a) anyone residing in India.
b) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
d) any citizen of India.

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
According to section 4 (d) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, for election to Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by any citizen whose name appears in the electoral rolls of any parliamentary constituency.
Source: UPSC CSE 2017

Q.22) A civil servant cannot be removed without giving a "reasonable opportunity of being heard" through an enquiry. But this safeguard will not be available to a civil servant in which of the following situations?
1. If s/he is removed on the grounds of conviction on a criminal charge.
2. If the removing authority is satisfied that it is not practicable to hold such an inquiry.
3. If President or Governor is satisfied not to hold an inquiry in the interest of state security,
Select the correct answer from the code given below
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Article 311 places two restrictions on the above 'Doctrine of Pleasure'. In other words, it provides two safeguards to civil servants against any arbitrary dismissal from their posts:
1) A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed4 by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed.
2) A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges

However, the second safeguard (holding inquiry) is not available in the following three cases:
Option 1 is correct: Where a civil servant is dismissed or removed or reduced in rank on the **ground of conduct which has led to his conviction on a criminal charge**; or
Option 2 is correct: Where the **authority empowered to dismiss or remove** a civil servant or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason (to be recorded in writing), **it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry**; or
Option 3 is correct: Where the **President or the Governor is satisfied that in the interest of the security** of the state, it is not expedient to hold such inquiry.
Source: statement 1 and 2: Laxmikanth chapter on public services
Statement 3 : http://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/1643/Doctrine-of-Pleasure-as-under-the-Indian-Constitution.html#:~:text=%5B19%5DFor%20instance%2C%20a,removal%20or%20reduction%20in%20rank.

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Q.23) Consider the following statements with reference to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act:
1. The Act seeks to give effect to the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002.
2. The Act mandates private schools to reserve 25% of their seats in elementary classes for the students belonging to Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes.
3. The Act mandates the No Detention Policy for the children till the elementary classes.
Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1 and 2 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: Right to Education Act (RTE) provides free and compulsory education to children and enforces it as a fundamental right under Article 21-A. The RTE Act makes it mandatory for the State to provide free and compulsory education to all children from the age of 6 to 14 years. **This is stated as per the 86th Constitution Amendment Act via Article 21A. The Right to Education Act seeks to give effect to this amendment.**
Statements 2 is incorrect: The Act required government schools to provide free and compulsory education to all admitted children. **Section 12(1)(c)** mandates that **non-minority private unaided schools should reserve at least 25% of seats in entry-level grades for children from economically weaker** and disadvantaged backgrounds **(and not only the students from the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes).**
Statement 3 is incorrect: Earlier, as **per the Section 16 of the RTE Act, 2009, "no child could be held back or expelled till the completion of elementary education**" which was famously known as "no detention policy" **However, the "No Detention Policy" has been removed under The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019.**
Source:
https://www.education.gov.in/en/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/rte_2019.pdf
https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/private-schools-should-admit-25-students-from-weaker-sections-hrd-minister-1560339-2019-07-02

Q.24) With reference to All India Judicial Services, consider the following statements:
1. Constitution empowers the parliament to create All India judicial services with prior permission of President.
2. Creation of such a service is deemed to be an amendment under article 368.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Creation of All India Judicial Services (AIJS) was first proposed by law commission in 1958
Statement 1 is incorrect: The **42nd Constitutional amendment in 1976** amended Article 312 of the Constitution. It provides that Parliament can create one or more All-India Services, including an AIJS,

common to the Union and the States. It does not require prior permission of President. **The Rajya Sabha passes the resolution with support of not less than two third members present and voting. Thereafter, parliament enact law for its creation.**
Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 368 is not deemed to be amended for the law enacted for creating all India judicial service under **article 312**. The said service should not include any post inferior to that of a district judge.
Source: Laxmikanth, Chapter 66.

Q.25) With reference to 'Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India', consider the following statements:
1. It is developed by the Geological Survey of India in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation.
2. It provides month wise hazard levels of all districts of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released India's first "Climate hazards and vulnerability Atlas of India".
Statement 1 is *incorrect*: The Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India is developed by the scientists at Climate Research and Services (CRS) office of the **India Meteorological Department** (IMD), Pune **(not the by Geological Survey of India in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation).**
Statement 2 is correct: The atlas features extreme rainfall, drought, cold wave, heatwave, dust storms, hail storm, thunderstorm, cyclones, snowfall, lightning, winds and fog. The atlas provides a month wise **range of vulnerability with risks** ranging from nil, low, moderate, high and very high categories **for every Indian district.**
Source: IMD launches India's 1st weather hazard and vulnerability atlas | Cities News,The Indian Express
Climate hazards and vulnerability Atlas of India: Sundarbans is cyclone capital of India: IMD report- ForumIAS Blog

Q.26) With reference to Rights and Liabilities of the Government, consider the following statements:
1. As per Doctrine of Escheat, when a person dies without any will or heirs, his/her property accrues to the government.
2. According to Lapse principle, any property found without any owner will be possessed by the government.
3. Under Bona Vacantia, rights to property are terminated when there is a failure to follow appropriate procedures.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

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Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Article 296 of constitution of India provides property accruing by escheat or lapse or as bona vacantia.

Statement 1 is correct: Doctrine of Escheat provides that when owner of any property dies without an heir his rights would have so transferred to His Majesty or to the Ruler of an Indian State before the independence era. But now it shall devolve on the government. However, the government takes the property subject to all its obligations and liabilities.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Under the lapse, if there is a failure to follow appropriate procedures while establishing ownership over a property, then such ownership rights will be terminated. And the rightful ownership will be vested with the government.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Under bona vacantia, if the **property is found without any owner**, then it shall, vest in the Union or in that State.

Source: Laxmikanth, chapter on rights and liabilities of the government.

Q.27) Consider the following statements with reference to the Delimitation Commission:

1. Its orders cannot be challenged in any court of law.
2. The Commission determines its own procedure and has all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. They must be constituted in India before every General election.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission is a high-powered body.

Statement 1 is correct: The Delimitation Commission is a high-powered body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.

Statement 2 is correct: The Commission determines its own procedure and in the performance of its functions it has all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The Commission has power to require any person to furnish any information on such points or matters as in the opinion of the Commission may be useful for, or relevant to, any matter under the consideration of the Commission.

Statement 3 is incorrect: According to Article 82 of the Constitution, **the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act following each census (not before every General election)** and Article 170 states that after each census, states are divided into territorial constituencies based on the Delimitation Act. In India, Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

Source: https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/09_Delimitation%20act,%202002.pdf
https://theprint.in/opinion/is-india-ready-for-delimitation-of-constituencies-time-has-come-for-reorganisation-of-states/793024/
https://eci.gov.in/delimitation-website/delimitation/

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Q.28) Which of the following can be considered as examples of e-governance initiatives in India:
1. MCA21
2. DARPAN
3. Digital Locker System
4. Jeevan Pramaan
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Several e-governance initiatives have been launched in India by the government.
Option 1 is correct: MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India that enables an **easy and secure access of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs** services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India.
Option 2 is correct: DARPAN (The Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India) aims to improve quality of service, add value to services and achieve financial inclusion of un-banked rural population. **DARPAN is Information Technology (IT) modernization project** aimed at realizing financial inclusion of un-banked rural population. It offers core banking services to the account holders.
Option 3 is correct: Digi-Locker serves as a platform to enable citizens to securely store and share their documents with service providers who can directly access them electronically.
Option 4 is correct: Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners Scheme of the Government of India known as Jeevan Pramaan seeks digitize the whole process of securing the life certificate. Jeevan Pramaan is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners. Pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization can take benefit of this facility.
Source: https://www.mca.gov.in/mcafoportal/viewCompanyMasterData.do
https://www.indiapost.gov.in/VAS/Pages/PMODashboard/Darpan.aspx
https://swayam.gov.in
https://jeevanpramaan.gov.in
https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=154617

Q.29) With reference to immunities provided to Ministers and Judicial officers against the lawsuits, consider the following statements:
1. The Constitution of India grants immunity from civil proceedings to the Ministers for their personal acts.
2. The acts done by the Judicial officers in discharge of his/her official duties can only be questioned in civil courts.
Which of the statements given above is/are correctly matched?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The Constitution of India confers certain immunities to the Ministers, Judicial officers, President, Governor and Civil Servants against lawsuits in India.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. The Ministers **do not enjoy any immunity** for their personal acts and can be sued for crimes as well as torts (civil offences) in ordinary courts like that for the common citizens.
Statement 2 is incorrect. The Judicial Officers' Protection Act, of 1850 states that **No Judge, Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, Collector, or other person acting judicially shall be liable to be sued in any Civil Court** for any act done or ordered to be done by him in the discharge of his judicial duty.
Source: http://www.ijtr.nic.in/webjournal/11.htm
LAXMIKANT-5TH EDITION -RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF GOVERNENT.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding 'Negative Ion Technology':
1. It is used to embed negative ions in personal products of human use.
2. Negative ions are believed to produce biochemical reactions that increase levels of the mood among humans.
3. Products using this technology can contain radioactive materials and therefore continuously emit ionizing radiation.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: Negative ion technology embeds negative ions in personal products and is currently being advertised as a means to maintain health, balance energy, and improve well-being.
An ion is an atom, or a molecule, which has gained or lost one or more electrons. If the **atom is neutral, the ion is electrically charged**. A **negative ion comes from an atom that has gained one or more electrons.** Negative ions are made when sunlight, radiation, air, or water break down oxygen.
Statement 2 is correct: Negative ions are odourless, tasteless, and invisible molecules that we inhale in abundance in certain environments like the mountains, waterfalls, and beaches. Once they reach our bloodstream, negative ions are **believed to produce biochemical reactions that increase levels of the mood chemical serotonin**, helping to alleviate depression, relieve stress, and boost our daytime energy.
Statement 3 is correct: The radiation detected in some of the Negative Ion Technology products has been higher than the background level, and in some cases high enough to require licensing. These products were found to **contain radioactive materials** and therefore continuously **emit ionizing radiation**. Exposure to ionizing radiation can cause adverse **health effects**, and wearing the products for extended periods could pose health risks that include **tissue and DNA damage**.
Knowledge Base:
Negative Ion Technology is used in certain **silicone wristbands, quantum or scalar-energy pendants, sleep masks, jewellery** among others as a means to **maintain health, balance energy, and improve well-being**.
Source: Negative Ion Technology: Adding radioactive substances in wearables unjustified -ForumIAS Blog
Negative Ions Create Positive Vibes (webmd.com)
Benefits of negative ions (teqoya.com)

Q.31) Consider the following statements:
1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and by-election.

3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Election Commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and such number of Election Commissioners as the President may deem it necessary subject to the law made by Parliament in this regard. Currently, it consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners **(3 members not the five).**

Election Commission decides **(not the Union Ministry of Home Affairs)** election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

Election Commission also resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

Q.32) Consider the following statements with reference to the Anti-Defection Law:
1. Petition can be given by a member of the House to disqualify another member on grounds of defection.
2. The decision taken by presiding officer regarding disqualification arising out of defection, is not subject to Judicial review.
3. The law does not specify a time-period for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification of members.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature. The anti-defection law sought to prevent political defections.

Statement 1 is correct: Legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a **petition by any other member of the House**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Originally, the anti-defection law provided that the decision of the presiding officer is final and cannot be questioned in any court. **However, in Kihoto Hollohan Case (1993), the Supreme Court declared this provision as unconstitutional** on the ground that it seeks to take away the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the high courts. **Hence the decision taken by presiding officer of the house is subject to judicial review on the grounds of mala fides.**

Statement 3 is correct: The anti-defection law does not specify a time-period for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification of members. The courts can intervene only after the Presiding Officer has decided on the matter, the petitioner seeking disqualification has no option but to wait for this decision to be made.

Source: https://prsindia.org/theprsblog/the-anti-defection-law-explained
Indian polity by M Laxmikanth. Chapter name- Anti defection law. Page no-1243.

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Q.33) Which of the following are the advantages of being recognized as the National and State parties?
1. The candidates of these parties require only one proposer to file election nomination.
2. The parties are provided with space by the Government for campaigning and organizing rallies.
3. The Election Commission of India provides election symbols to both of these parties for their exclusive nationwide use.
4. The parties might be provided with land by the government to establish their party office.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1, 2 and 4 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 4 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
India has a multi-party system as Indian politics is dominated by several national and regional parties. The evolution of Indian political party system can be traced to the formation of the Congress, as a political platform in 1885. Other parties and groups originated later.
Statement 1 is the correct answer. If the candidate is contesting the election from a recognised political party, then only **one elector** of the constituency is required to propose the file nomination.
Statement 2 is incorrect. There is **no such advantage being provided** by the government of India to the political or state parties in India. The candidates of the parties have to arrange the spaces by themselves. **Only, the expenditure incurred on the travelling** and other expenses of star campaigners is not included in the election expenditure of the party candidate. The National and State parties can have up to 40-star campaigners while registered-unrecognised parties can have up to 20-star campaigners.
Statement 3 is incorrect. If a party is recognised as a State Party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State **(and not the nationwide use of that symbol)** in which it is so recognised, and if a party is recognised as a `National Party' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India. Hence the statement is incorrect.
Statement 4 is the correct answer. The National Political Parties which have been recognized as such by the **Election Commission of India and the State recognized parties** shall be considered for **allotment of land for construction of office building.** The land allotted to political parties may comprise of one or more plots. In case a political party has been allotted land earlier, fresh allotment of land in accordance with the norms specified by government after deducting the quantum of land already allotted.
Source: LAXMIKANT (CH-POLITICAL PARTIES)
https://ldo.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/file/Policy.pdf
https://pib.gov.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=104537#:~:text=Recognised%20%60State'%20and%20%60National,of%20cost%20during%20General%20Elections.

Q.34) Consider the following statements with reference to the social audits in India:
1. In India, the concept of Social Audit was formally introduced in 1952 to measure the effectiveness of Community Development Programme.
2. The Social Audit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities is not mandatory under Companies Act, 2013.
3. There is a provision for mandatory Social Audit by Gram Sabha in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005.

Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Social auditing is a process by which an organization / government accounts for its social performance to its stakeholders and seeks to improve its future social performance. The concept was pioneered by Charles Medawar in 1972.

Statement 1 is *incorrect*: In India, the initiative of conducting social audits was taken by Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), Jamshedpur in the year 1979. It gained significance after the 73rd amendment of the constitution relating to Panchayat Raj institutions. In India, social audits were first made statutory in a 2005 Rural Employment Act and government also issued the Social Audit Rules in 2011 under the MGNREGA Act.

Statement 2 is correct: Under the **current legal framework, there is no provision of social audit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure made by the companies. However, companies are required to file details of CSR activities annually in the MCA21 registry**. The CSR disclosures made by the companies in MCA21 are captured in a user-friendly manner and put in the National CSR Data Portal. In addition, companies are required to provide additional information regarding CSR expenditure in their Profit & Loss Account and the same is required to be audited by the statutory auditors of the company.

Statement 3 is correct: In **pursuance of Section 17(1) of the MGNREGA, 2005, Gram Sabha is required to conduct regular and mandatory social audits** of all the projects under the scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat'

Source: https://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/SocialAuditFindings/SA_home.aspx
https://taxguru.in/company-law/provision-social-audit-csr-expenditure-govt.html

Q.35) With reference to 'Udyam System of Registration for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)', consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. The registration on the portal is necessary for an MSMEs to get benefits under Priority Sector Lending Scheme.
3. An enterprise should get separate registration numbers for its manufacturing and service activities.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Ministry of MSME has released the data regarding the number of Scheduled Castes (SC) owned enterprises covered under the Udyam system of registration.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Udyam System of registration an online system for registering MSMEs, **launched by the Union MSME ministry (not Ministry of Commerce and Industry).** This portal is more streamlined than the previous Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum. The portal is also fully integrated with Income Tax and GST IN systems.

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Statement 2 is correct: The **registration on Udyam portal is necessary for any MSME** (regardless of the social category of ownership) that wants to avail concessions or benefits from the Central and State governments and want to get covered under schemes of the governments, **including priority sector lending of banks**.
Statement 3 is incorrect: According to Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, **no enterprise shall have more than one Udyam Registration Number**, if an Enterprise is involving in both manufacturing and service, then both the activities will be clubbed in one Udyam Registration. They are eligible for registration under the system.
Source: Udyam System of registration: 6% of MSMEs owned by SC entrepreneurs -ForumIAS Blog
FAQs for Registration on Udyam Registration Portal (taxguru.in)

Q.36) Consider the following statements with reference to the By-Elections in India:
1. By-election to the house of Parliament or a state legislature must be held within three months of occurrence of the vacancy.
2. By-elections may not be held if the remainder of the term of the member whose vacancy is to be filled is less than one year.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
In India, by elections is held in one or a few constituencies due to the death or resignation of candidates. However, it can also be held if an elected member resigns or gets disqualified under parliamentary law. A member of a legislative assembly often leaves his position vacant on various grounds, especially when he/she becomes inept. It could be the person's untimely death or a criminal conviction, which makes him ineligible to continue in office.
Statement 1 is incorrect: In India by-elections to the house of Parliament or a state legislature must be held within six months (not three months) of occurrence of the vacancy. By-election is held with a definite purpose, which is to fill a political office that has become vacant.
Statement 2 is correct: By-elections **are not mandatorily conducted** where the **remainder of the term** of the member whose vacancy is to be **filled is less than one year**. Also, when the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government, certifies that it is difficult to hold the by-elections within the said period then By-elections can be deferred.
Source: https://www.mapsofindia.com/my-india/politics/by-elections-in-india-a-phenomenon-worth-observing
Indian polity by M Laxmikanth. Chapter name- election laws. Page no-1206 and 1207.

Q.37) With reference to service conditions of Civil servants in India, consider the following statements:
1. Members of the state civil service holds office during the pleasure of President.
2. Constitution provides the compensation to members of public service, if post is abolished before the expiry of agreed period.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Doctrine of pleasure has its origin in England common law, under which crown can remove anyone with services under its employ at any time.

Statement 1 is incorrect: As **per article 310**, every member of the civil service of state or **person holding civil post under state** hold office during the pleasure of the G**overnor not President**.

Statement 2 is correct: Under article 310 of the Constitution, a civil servant will be entitled to get compensation under the following conditions-

1) when the post held by him is done away before the expiration of contract period.

2) If he is to vacate office for reason not related with misconduct on his part.

Source: Laxmikanth, chapter on public services

Q.38) Which of the following are the different types of observers in Parliamentary and Assembly Elections in India?

1. Expenditure Observers
2. Post-Poll Observers
3. Awareness Observers
4. Feedback Observers

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 2 and 4 only

c) 1, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is the correct answer. Expenditure Observers from Central Government Services are appointed to keep a **close watch on election expenditure of the candidates** and to ensure that no inducement is offered to the electors during the entire election process for exercise of their franchise.

Option 2 is the correct answer. To observe the poll proceedings on the poll day in selected critical polling stations **micro observers or post poll observers** are appointed. They observe the proceedings the Polling Stations on poll day from the mock poll the completion and process sealing of EVMS and other documents to ensure that all instructions of the Commission are complied with the Polling Parties the Polling Agents.

Option 3 is the correct answer. To oversee the efficient and effective management of the electoral process at the field level, mainly in **respect of voter awareness and facilitation**, **awareness Observers** are appointed. They observe the interventions undertaken by the election machinery to bridge the gap in people's participation in the electoral process particularly in regard to voters' turnout. They also monitor the various media related aspects of RP Act 1951 and observe the mechanism directed by the Commission at District levels checking the problem of 'Paid News'.

Option 4 is incorrect. There is **no such observer** being appointed by the election commission of India. Rather **Police Observers** are appointed monitors all activities relating to force deployment, law and order situation and co-ordinate between the Civil and Police administration to ensure free and fair election.

Source: LAXMIKANT(CH-ELECTIONS)

Q.39) Consider the following statements with reference to the procedure of amendment of Indian Constitution:

1. A Bill for the amendment of provisions of Article 368, has to be ratified by not less than half of the states.

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2. The power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution lies with the Indian Parliament only.
3. Indian constitution has no provision for holding a joint sitting for the deadlock over the passage of a constitutional amendment bill.
4. According to the Constitution, if a state once approves a Constitutional amendment bill, it cannot withdraw its approval to such a bill.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Article 368 lays down the process by which the Parliament can amend the constitution.
Statement 1 is correct: In the case of amendment of provisions mentioned in Article 368, It needs to be ratified by not less than half of the states. **Ratification should be done by a resolution passed by the state legislature. However, this must be passed before the amendment Bill is presented to the President for his assent.**
Statement 2 is correct: Amendment can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either house of the Parliament. The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require the prior permission of the President.
Statement 3 is correct: In India there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament if there is a deadlock over the passage of a constitutional amendment bill. A provision for a joint sitting is made in the case of an ordinary bill.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The Constitution of India does not prescribe the time frame within which the state legislatures should ratify or reject an amendment submitted to them. **Also, the constitution is silent on the issue whether the states can withdraw their approval after submitting their approval.**
Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth pdf 6th edition. Chapter name-Amendment of the constitution. Page no-283.

Q.40) Project Beacon and Project Vijayak, often seen in news, is related to-
a) Design and development of Buoyancy Glider for enhancing underwater Domain Awareness
b) Construction and maintenance of Critical Road Infrastructure
c) Addressing the issue of poaching of endangered species in the protected areas of India.
d) Development of Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missiles.

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is correct.
Border Roads Organisation (BRO) through its frontline projects – Vijayak and Beacon has created a new record by keeping the Zoji La pass on the Srinagar–Leh National Highway open for vehicular traffic (Usually, it remains closed in winters due to high snow).
Project Beacon: It was launched in the 1960's. This is the oldest project of the BRO. The project currently looks after road **infrastructure development and maintenance** in the important areas of Kashmir.
Project Vijayak: It was launched by BRO in 2010. Project Vijayak along with Project Himank are responsible for the construction and maintenance of critical road infrastructure in Ladakh.
Project DANTAK: It was established in 1961 with the objective of developing roads, telecommunication networks and other such landmark infrastructure-related projects in Bhutan.

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Project Sampark: It was raised by BRO in 1975. It looks after the construction, improvement and maintenance of strategic roads in the border district of Jammu, Kathua, Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi and Poonch.
Source: Project Beacon and Project Vijayak: Border Roads Organisation breaks record at ZojiLa battling extreme weather conditions -ForumIAS Blog

Q.41) The Ninth Schedule was introduced in the Constitution of India during the Prime Ministership of
a) Jawaharlal Nehru
b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
c) Indira Gandhi
d) Morarji Desai

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
First Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1951, introduced the Ninth Schedule in the Constitution of India during the prime-ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru.
This amendment made laws placed in Ninth Schedule immune to judicial review, even if they violate any Fundamental Rights.
Source: UPSC CSE 2019

Q.42) Consider the following statements with reference to the Coalition Governments:
1. In India, the first coalition government at the Centre was formed by Janta Party in 1977.
2.To be called as a coalition, it must have at least three political parties as partners.
3. A coalition government always works on the basis of a common minimum programme.
Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?
a) 3 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The term **'coalition'** is derived from the Latin word **'coalitio'** which means 'to grow together'. Thus, technically, **coalition means the act of uniting parts into one body or whole**. Politically, coalition means an alliance of distinct political parties.
Statement 1 is correct: First coalition government in India at Centre was formed by Janta Party in 1977. This was a historic year in Indian Politics, which gave India its first-ever Coalition government, that too formed by non-Congress Parties. Prime Minister Morarji Desai was the first Non-Congress Prime Minister during the period from March 1977 to June 1979.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Coalitions usually occur in modern parliaments when no single political party can muster a majority of votes**. Two or more parties, who have enough elected members between them to form a majority**, can proceed to form a government. Thus, **a coalition implies the existence of at least two (not three) partners.**
Statement 3 is incorrect: The keynote of coalition politics is generally compromise. A **coalition government may generally work on the basis of a common minimum programme but it is not necessarily true always. When a political party in coalition has the majority to run the government on her own (as can be seen in India in present scenario) the common minimum programme might not be followed.**

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Knowledge Base: The Common Minimum Programme is a **document outlining the minimum objectives to achieved by a coalition government**. The document has acquired prominence since coalition governments have become the norm in India.
Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter -75

Q.43) With reference to the lawsuits by or against the government, consider the following statements:
1. While filing a court case against government, the Central government should be referred to as the 'Government of India'.
2. A lawsuit can be filed against the government by an organization for breaching of contractual liabilities.
3. The Government in India can be sued for civil wrongs committed by its officials while performing the non-sovereign functions.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect. According to **Article 300 of the Indian Constitution**, an individual or organization can file a lawsuit in the High Court or Supreme Court against the central government by the name of the **Union of India not by the Government of India,** and in case of the Government of a State, it's by the name of the State by sending 2 months prior notice under Section 80 of the CPC.
Statement 2 is the correct answer. As per the exercise of its executive power, the Union or a state can **enter into contracts** for the acquisition, holding and disposal of property, or to carry on any trade or business, or for any other purpose **with any organization**. But any **breach of the contract does not immunize the government from a contractual liability,** making the government suable in contracts. This means that the contractual liability of the Union government and the state governments is the same as that of an individual under the ordinary law of contract. Hence **the government in India can be sued by the organization on breach of contract from their part.**
Statement 3 is the correct answer. As per the ruling in the **P and O Steam Navigation Company case (1861)** it was stated that the government (Union or states) in India can be sued for civil wrongs done by the government officials **only in the exercise of its non-sovereign functions** but not in the sovereign functions like administering justice, constructing a military road. commandeering goods during war, etc. It was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in the post-independence era in the Kasturi Lal case (1965).
Source: LAXMIKANT-5TH EDITION -RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF GOVERNENT.

Q.44) Which of the following are the roles and duties of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in India?
1. He ensures arrangements at election booths and demonstration of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in every district.
2. He reviews the law-and-order situation in the state during elections.
3. He allocates symbols to the contesting candidates.
4. He scrutinises the nomination forms of contesting candidates.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

In India, the Election machinery is operated effectively by the Election Commission of India, Chief Electoral Officer, Returning Officer, Electoral Registration Officer, Presiding officers and the Observers.

Statement 1 is the correct answer. The **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)** ensures arrangements at election booths and **demonstration of EVMs in every district**. He also looks out the proper sealing of EVM and election papers.

Statement 2 is the correct answer. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) reviews the **law-and-order situation** in the state and makes a detailed assessment to ensure that timely measures are taken. His role is to maintain inter-state coordination and sealing of borders as needed. He ensures whether the security deployment plan is in compliance with the Election Commission of India's directives and also ensures that Helpline and the Complaint Cell are functioning at different levels in the state.

Statement 3 is incorrect. A **Returning Officer** (not CEO) who oversees the election in a constituency or sometimes in two constituencies, as directed by the Election Commission **is responsible for allotting symbols** to the contesting candidates.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The **Returning Officer (not CEO)** examines the **nomination papers** and decide all objections which may be made to any nomination and may, either on such objection or on his own motion, after such summary inquiry, if any, as he thinks necessary, or reject any nomination.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/returning-officer/article27050005.ece
https://www.elections.in/political-corner/role-and-functions-of-chief-electoral-officer/
LAXMIKANT(CH-ELECTIONS)

Q.45) With reference to 'International Customary Law', consider the following statements:

1. International Customary Law is derived from the general practices that are accepted as laws in various countries.
2. These laws are not binding legal rules as they are not supported through international agreements or treaties.
3. Indian Judicial and legal system has not recognized the validity of this law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Parliamentary committee on external affairs has presented a report titled "India and international law" in the Lok Sabha. The report discusses how Indian courts have dealt with international law.

Statement 1 is correct: Customary international law refers to international obligations arising from established international practices, as opposed to obligations arising from formal written conventions and treaties. **Customary international law results from a general and consistent practice of States that they follow from a sense of legal obligation.** Two examples of customary international laws are the doctrine of non-refoulement and the granting of immunity for visiting heads of state.

Statement 2 is incorrect: International customary laws are **binding legal rules** that have developed on global or region levels through continued practice. States recognize that treaties and customary international law are sources of international law and, as such, are binding. This is set forth, for example, in the Statute of the International Court of Justice. One example of the **binding nature of customary international law is its application by national and international courts and tribunals.**

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Statement 3 is incorrect: Supreme Court of India has been of the view that **Customary International Law (CIL),** unless contradictory to domestic law, is **part of the Indian legal regime** even if the parliament has not enacted a law for that. In **Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India,** it held that CIL which is not contrary to the municipal law shall be deemed to have been incorporated in India's domestic law. This principle has been affirmed in subsequent decisions like in **Research Foundation for Science v. Union of India.** Here, the SC, relying on the Vellore Citizen case, declared that the **precautionary principle,** an environmental law concept, **is part of CIL and thus part of Indian law.**
Source: How India has approached customary international law -ForumIAS Blog
Customary law | ICRC
Customary Law (lac.org.na)

Q.46) With reference to Anti defection law, consider the following statements:
1. Deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha is not disqualified under anti-defection law when s/he voluntary gives up the membership of his/her party.
2. A 'defection' by at least one-third of the elected members of a political party is considered a 'merger'.
3. Abstaining from voting by a member of the House, against the directives of his party, can be considered as defection.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The Anti-Defection Law was passed in 1985 through the **52nd amendment, adding Tenth Schedule** to the Indian Constitution**.** The main intent of the law was to prevent political defections.
Statement 1 is correct: A member of a house when elected for the office of presiding officer is not subjected to disqualification under anti defection law if he/she voluntary gives up the membership of his/her party or rejoins it after ceasing to hold the said office. Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the House of People, Deputy Chairman of the Council of States can voluntarily give up their party membership without attracting the disqualification under anti-defection law.
Statement 2 is incorrect: As per the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 Act, a 'defection' by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a 'merger'.
But the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, changed this and **presently at least two-thirds of the members of a party have to be in favour of a "merger" for it to have validity.**
Statement 3 is correct: A legislator is deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or **disobeys the directives of the party leadership on a vote. This implies that a legislator defying (abstaining or voting against) the party whip on any issue can lose his membership of the House.**
Source: statement 1 and 2: Laxmikanth chapter on anti-defection law
Statement 3: https://prsindia.org/theprsblog/the-anti-defection-law-explained?page=51&per-page=1

Q.47) Consider the following statements with reference to the reforms made by the Government to promote governance in India:
1. PRAGATI Scheme has been launched for capacity building of civil services in India.
2. Common Services Centers offer both public and private services in rural and remote areas.

3. Mission Karmyogi is aimed at improving the monitoring of government projects.
Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Governance is commonly defined as the exercise of power or authority by political leaders for the well-being of their country's citizens or subjects. Various governance reforms have been promoted by the government in recent times.
Statement 1 is incorrect: 'Mission Karmayogi' (not the PRAGATI Scheme), also called the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) is launched for the capacity building of Civil Services in India. It aims to prepare Indian civil servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, proactive, innovative, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent, and technology-enabled. It aims to do comprehensive reform of the capacity-building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.
Statement 2 is correct: Common Service Centers are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services, apart from **host of B2C services to citizens in rural and remote areas** of the country. Thus, it **provides both public and private services to the citizens**. It is a pan-India network catering to regional, geographic, linguistic and-cultural diversity of the country, thus enabling the Government's mandate of a socially, financially and digitally inclusive society.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation I.e., PRAGATI Scheme (and not the Mission Karmyogi) is a unique integrating and interactive platform aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously **monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments**. The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles the three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing, and geo-spatial technology.
Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1655663
https://digitalseva.csc.gov.in
https://www.meity.gov.in/pragati-20-pro-active-governance-and-timely-implementation

Q.48) Which of the following is/are the conditions for recognition of a party as a National Party?
1. If the party secures 4 % of the valid votes in 3 states at a general election for the Lok Sabha.
2. If the party wins 3% of seats in legislative assembly at general election of the state legislative assembly.
3. If the party wins 2% of seats in Lok Sabha at general elections from three states.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

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Statement 1 is incorrect. A party can be recognized as a national party if it **secures six per cent of valid votes** polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly; and, **in addition**, it **wins four seats in the Lok Sabha** from any state or states.
Statement 2 is incorrect. If a party wins **three per cent of seats in the legislative assembly** at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly then it will be liable to be **recognized as State Party** not the National Party. Hence the given condition is for recognition of state party.
Statement 3 is the correct answer. A party can be recognized as a national party if it wins **two per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha** at a general election; and these candidates are elected **from three states**.
Source: LAXMIKANT (CH-POLITICAL PARTIES)

Q.49) Consider the following statements with reference to the Model Panchayat Citizen Charter framework:
1. It has been released by Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development.
2. It aims to align the delivery of public services with Sustainable Development Goals at panchayat level.
3. Under this framework, draft of Citizen Charters for panchayats needs the approval of the respective Gram Sabha.
Which of the above-given statements are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Citizen Charters is voluntary and written document that spells out the service provider's efforts taken to focus on their commitment towards fulfilling the needs of the citizens/customers. A Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/ framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors of 11th Schedule of Constitution, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) was released by Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Panchayati Raj.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Model Panchayat Citizens Charter framework has been prepared by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) (not the Ministry of Rural Development) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).** NIRDPR is an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
Statement 2 is correct: Model Panchayat Citizens Charter framework has been developed for the delivery of the services across the 29 sectors (mentioned under schedule 11 of the Constitution for Panchayats), and it aims to align the delivery of these public services with Sustainable Development Goals at panchayat level.
Statement 3 is correct: Panchayats would be utilizing this framework, and with the due approval of Gram Sabha, would draw up a Citizens Charter, detailing the different categories of services rendered to the citizen by the Panchayat, the conditions for such service and also the time limit for such service.
Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1724464

Q.50) Consider the following statements with reference to the Hyderabad Declaration:
1. The Declaration pledges for exclusive financial support from Central and State Governments for development of digital services.

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2. The Declaration aims at the Integration of all State/District public portals with Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System.

Which of the above-given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

24th National Conference on e-Governance 2021 was held at **Hyderabad** in **January 2022. 'Hyderabad Declaration'** on e-Governance was adopted in this National conference. The **Hyderabad Declaration** aims to transform citizen services through use of technology by leveraging the artifacts of **India Stack that include Aadhaar, UPI, Digi Locker, UMANG, e Sign and consent framework**.

Statement 1 is incorrect: T**here is no mention of any exclusive financial support for the development of digital services.** The Declaration is focused on collaboration between states and Centre for better e-governance.

Statement 2 is correct: A **key feature of the declaration** was that both **central and state government should collaborate for integration of all State/District portals with CPGRAMS for seamless Redressal of Public Grievances. I**t would uplift good governance to higher level through healthy competition among States and UTs and among Central Ministries by benchmarking services.

Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1788564

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